



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ALBERTS
FIFTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

35 CORNFIELD POINT
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281

HOME PHONE: (860) 974-3663
CAPITOL PHONE: (800) 842-1423
EMAIL: Mike.Alberts@housegop.ct.gov
Website: repalberts.com

RANKING MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Good Morning Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer, Ranking Members Chapin and Roraback, and members of the Environment Committee. I am Mike Alberts, 50th District State Representative and I am here to testify today on Senate Bill 830, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES.

I oppose Senate Bill 830 in its present form and strongly urge the Environment Committee to redirect its efforts to the development of new standards for the future installation and operation of outdoor wood-burning furnaces. Many technological advances have been made in the past several years that, if implemented, would continue our state's progress in reducing emissions. I would support your Committee's efforts in the regard.

I consider, however, the outright ban of outdoor wood-burning furnaces to be a direct assault on the quality of life of hundreds of my rural district's constituents. In this difficult economy, many of these families have no option except these furnaces to heat their homes. Additionally, the livelihoods of individuals who provide this valuable resource are similarly in jeopardy.

I find it quite ironic that the proposed ban on outdoor wood-burning furnaces, if enacted, would require an increased consumption of home heating oil, a fossil fuel. *Is this truly what the Environment Committee wants to accomplish?*

On a final note, I have no confidence in the motives of supporters of this bill to presently exempt farmers. If this measure were enacted, I see future efforts to eliminate this remaining exemption as quite likely.